

Claims:

1. A process for the purification of terbinafine which comprises subjecting crude terbinafine in free base form to distillation and recovering the resultant product in free base or acid addition salt form.
2. A process according to claim 1 which comprises short path distillation.
3. A process according to claim 1 or 2 wherein distillation is effected at a temperature above 100°C and under reduced pressure.
4. A process according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the crude terbinafine is prepared using a palladium- and/or a copper-containing catalyst.
5. A process according to claim 4 wherein the purified product contains less than 2 ppm palladium and/or less than 1 ppm copper.
6. A process according to claim 4 wherein the crude terbinafine contains more than 2 ppm palladium and/or more than 1 ppm copper, and the resultant purified product contains less than 2 ppm palladium and/or less than 1 ppm copper.
7. A process according to claim 1 or 2 wherein at least 5 kg purified product in free base form is prepared per distillation batch or run, preferably at least 50 kg, especially at least 200 kg.
8. A process according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the crude terbinafine in free base form is prepared by reaction of (E)-N-(3-halo-2-propenyl)-N-methyl-N-(1-naphthylmethyl)amine with 3,3-dimethyl-1-butyne in the presence of a palladium and/or a copper catalyst.
9. Purified terbinafine in free base or acid addition salt form whenever prepared by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 8.

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10. Terbinafine in free base or acid addition salt form comprising less than 2 ppm palladium and/or less than 1 ppm copper, whenever obtained from a crude product in free base form comprising more than 2 ppm palladium and/or more than 1 ppm copper.